National Identity:

This is what makes your culture different to other cultures. The UAE culture stands out from others because of the way we dress, our Islamic faith, our food, celebrations, language etc. National identity is what makes you belong to your land.

People in the UAE have mixed with people from other countries through:

* Pearls
* Fishing
* Trading
* Oil
* Business
* Tourism

When people mix with other cultures they learn new:

* Languages
* Ways of doing things
* About new foods and ways of cooking it;
* Religions, dances, celebrations...

There are now so many other cultures living in the UAE that Emirate people are a minority. Emiratis now make up only 15% of the population.

Does this mean we will lose our own culture?

Many people feel it is important for people who come here from other countries to behave according to Emirate culture.

Many Emirate enjoy learning about other cultures and trying new things.

Many houses in the cities are now owned by people from other countries. Many Emirate move to the desert because that is where the government gives them houses.

Many Emirate are worried about their language. If they have to learn English, and more English-speaking people come here, will they lose Arabic? But countries like China are very powerful and still keep their language.

Growing population of the UAE

* 1972 - 332,000
* 1975 - 557,887
* 1980 - 1,042,099
* 1985 - 1,379,303
* 1990 - 1,773,000
* 1995 - 2,411,041
* 2000 - 3,247,000
* 2001 - 3,498,000
* 2002 - 3,754,000
* 2003 - 4,041,000
* 2005 - 4,104,695
* 2006 - 4,229,000
* 2007 - 5,122,000

Source: *Gulf News archive*